

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 26031 171304Z

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3498

UNCLAS BANGKOK 26031

PASS ARS/USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, EAGR

SUBJ: OPIUM POPPY REPLACEMENT CROPS

1. ARS HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND KASETSART UNIVERSITY TO UNDERTAKE TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ONIONS AND POTATOES AS OPIUM POPPY REPLACEMENT CROPS.

2. OBJECTIVE:

(A) ONIONS -- INTRODUCE, SELECT, DEVELOP VARIETIES SUITABLE FOR DEHYDRATION, STORAGE AND OFF-SEASON PRODUCTIONS AND SEED PRODUCTION IN HIGHLANDS. PRESENT VARIETIES DO NOT HAVE CHARACTERISTICS NEEDED FOR THE EXISTING THAI MARKET. THIS PROJECT IS 3 YEAR DURATION AND TO COST \$97,000.

(B) POTATOES -- INTRODUCE, EVALUATE POTATO VARIETIES, ESTABLISH TABLE AND SEED POTATOES, AND TO EVALUATE PRODUCTION METHODS FOR ALTERNATING BETWEEN HIGHLANDS AND LOWLANDS TO SUSTAIN YEAR ROUND PRODUCTION. PROJECT DURATION 3 YEARS AND TO COST \$75,850.

3. LOCAL MARKET PRICES FOR ONIONS AND POTATOES FLUCTUATE GREATLY BETWEEN CROPS. VARIETIES CURRENTLY GROWN HAVE SHORT STORAGE LIFE. THUS, LOCAL MARKET IS DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS FOR MOST OF YEAR.

4. THESE PROJECTS HAVE EMBASSY APPROVAL FOR IMMEDIATE FUNDING.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, VEGETABLES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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